

=BIBLE PROMISES=

Lesson 2

Bible Promises About Getting to Heaven

AIM: to teach my pupils to be sure of getting to Heaven and to be grateful that the way has been made.

POINT OF CONTACT: Last week's lesson taught a promise which is an unconditional promise—man may receive its benefits without doing anything for it, neither accepting nor rejecting nor ignoring it. This week's lesson teaches another of God's promises; this promise is a conditional promise, however. We will learn the setting for the promise, the promise itself, and the recipients of the promise. The discussion of the promise and the Person Who made it makes up the lesson.

The promise is found in John 5:24, "Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life." It was Jesus Who spoke this promise. He began "Verily, verily," which means "So be it, so be it," or "So it is, so it is," or Amen, amen," to underline the absolute truth of what He was about to say.

Let us think about the setting for the promise; it is given in John 5:1-23. Jesus was in Jerusalem at the time of one of the Jewish feasts. He was walking around the city and came to a pool which is located near the wall of the city—near the gate which is called the sheep gate. (This was just north of the temple site.) The pool was called the Pool of Bethesda. There were five porches around the pool. Many crippled, handicapped, and sick people were on these porches, waiting for the time that the angel would come to stir the waters of the pool. The first person who could be helped into the pool, or who could get into the pool without any help after the stirring of the waters, would be healed of his infirmities. A man who had an ailment for 38 years was there in the crowd. He had been there for a long time, but every time the waters were stirred, someone always got into the water before he did because there was no one there to help him. His condition was hopeless, it seemed.

Jesus then came along. He walked up to the man and asked him if he would like to be made whole. Of course, the man would. Jesus told him to pick up his little bedroll and to walk. The man obeyed the Lord and was healed. Jewish leaders saw him carrying his bed on this Sabbath Day and scolded him for doing so. They asked him who it was who had told him to carry his bed. The man could not tell them who it was, not until after he had met Jesus again—this time in the temple. Jesus admonished him there to keep out of sin so that he would not suffer a worse problem than that from which he had been healed. The man then told the religious authorities that it was Jesus Who had healed him and told him to carry his bed. The Jewish leaders questioned Jesus' authority. Jesus explained His relationship with the Heavenly Father, including in His explanation this blessed promise which is found in John 5:24. Even though the promise was stated to these religious men, the promise applies to everybody who had ever lived before that day, who lived during that day, and to everyone who would ever live after that day. The Jewish lawyers were asking, "What right does Jesus have to give an order that seems to be contrary to the law?" Jesus said, "Listen to Me. My words tell you how you might have everlasting life. Believe what my Father has said about Me."

I. HEAR WHO JESUS IS. John 5:24b, "and believeth on him that sent me." To believe "on" Him is to believe Him! The sense of the statement is: "He that believeth him that sent me hath everlasting life."

1. Jesus' identity was and is made clear by God.

- 1) Jesus is the Creator, John 1:1-3, 14; Colossians 1:16, 17. Jesus not only created the world, the universe and all things in them, but He also set up the patterns of authorities in the world, Revelation 1:5, 8.
- 2) Jesus is God, Isaiah 9:6. He is one with the Father, John 5:17-19. He is therefore the Lord of the Sabbath. He had every right to tell the man to pick up his bed after he had been healed, Matthew 12:8.
- 3) Jesus is the Son of God. Jesus' home had been Heaven. For making His entrance into the world, He chose to be born after the fashion of men. He had stripped Himself of all the glory that had been His in Heaven and was born of a woman, Luke 1:35; Matthew 3:17; John 5:20.

- 4) Jesus is the Judge of all men, John 5:21-30. He knows those people who will inherit eternal life; He knows those people who will be doomed to eternal punishment. This judgment is, of course, based upon what they have done about trusting Jesus as their Saviour, Revelation 14:7.
2. Jesus' identity has been confirmed by His acts, John 5:17, 18. (Whatever works His Father could do, He could do, John 14:11; Acts 2:22.)
 - 1) He made blind eyes to see. As the Creator, He could create eyes for a man who had never seen. Just as He did in the beginning, He made the eyes from the dust of the ground, John 9:1-7.
 - 2) He made the crippled man to walk. He was doing the works which He had done with the Father. His Father had spoken, and all things had been created by His Word, Genesis 1:3-27; John 1:1-3; John 5:19-21.
 - 3) He was perfectly the Son of God Who pleased the Father and Whom the Father loved, John 5:20; Matthew 3:17.
 - 4) Jesus, the Judge, knew the minds of His accusers, John 5:38-47.

II. HEAR WHAT JESUS HAD DONE. Upon the basis of this one act, Jesus can offer everlasting life to all who will accept Him as their personal Saviour.

1. He was the perfect sacrifice for sin. He is the Lamb of God Who was slain from the foundation of the world. Even at the time that He was talking to the Jewish leaders, He was as good as offered, for the plan was set and would not be changed, I Peter 1:19, 20; Acts 2:23. His blood had to be shed, for without the shedding of blood is no remission of sin, Hebrews 9:22.
2. He suffered sin's punishment for us. He went into Hell for us. Of course, He did not stay there; He proved His power over sin and death, Acts 2:27.

III. HEAR WHAT ONLY JESUS CAN DO.

1. Only He can give eternal life. Jesus is the Life-giver, John 5:21, 25, 26. As the Judge, He will determine who should have life eternal and who should suffer eternal death based upon what they have done about trusting Jesus as their Saviour, John 5:28, 29.
2. Only He can take anyone to Heaven. He is the way to Heaven; He is the door to Heaven; He only is truth and life, John 10:9; 14:6.

IV. HEAR WHAT YOU MUST DO.

1. You must believe the words of the Father. Believe Who Jesus is. Believe what Jesus did. Believe in the necessity for Jesus' work of salvation. Believe that you are a sinner. Believe that Jesus is the only way to Heaven, John 5:24.
2. As a reward for your faith, you will receive everlasting life, John 5:24.
 - 1) This is the opposite of everlasting death in Hell, Luke 16:24; II Thessalonians 1:8, 9; I John 5:12, 13.
 - 2) This is the promise of being with Jesus after death, II Corinthians 5:8; Philippians 1:21.

CONCLUSION: The person who has trusted Jesus as his Saviour "is passed from death unto life." The very instant that he says, "Jesus, I recognize my need of You, and I now receive You as my Saviour," his eternity is then completely changed!